## REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are active in the present application. Claims 20-28 are new claims. Support for the new claims is found in the original claims. Claims 3-7, 9 and 11-19 have been amended to remove multiple dependencies. No new matter is added. An action on the merits and allowance of claims is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Norman F. Oblon
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 24,618

Stefan U. Koschmieder, Ph.D.
Registration No. 50,238

22850
Tel.: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413-2220
NFO:SUK\la
220316US-236532-236533-0-PCT

220316US-0PCT

**Marked-Up Copy**

Serial No: _____

Amendment Filed on: 3-21-2002

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

--3. (Amended) A sulfonyl amino acid derivatives according to claim 1 [or 2], wherein n is 1.

4. (Amended) A sulfonyl amino acid derivative according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein $Ar^1$ and $Ar^2$ are independently selected from the group comprising or consisting of phenyl, thienyl, furyl, pyridyl, said residues being optionally substituted by at least one substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_6$-alkyl, like trihalomethyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_6$-alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted $C_2$-$C_6$-alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_2$-$C_6$-alkynyl, amino, acylamino, aminocarbonyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_6$-alkoxycarbonyl, aryl, carboxyl, cyano, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, acyloxy, acylamino, sulfoxy, sulfonyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_6$- thioalkoxy.

5. (Amended) A sulfonyl amino acid derivative according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein at least one of $R^3$ and/or $R^4$ is selected from the group consisting of the following natural amino acid residues : alanyl, arginyl, asparaginyl, aspartyl, cysteinyl, glu-taminyl, glutamyl, glycyl, histidyl, isoleucyl, leucyl, lysyl, methionyl, phenylalanyl, prolyl, seryl, threonyl, tryptophanyl, tyrosyl, valyl.

6. (Amended) A sulfonyl amino acid derivative according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein

$Ar^1$ is an unsubstituted or substituted phenyl, preferably 4-chlorophenyl, X is O, $R^1$, $R^2$, $R^3$ and $R^4$ are hydrogen, n is 1, $Ar^2$ is thienyl, $R^5$ is H or $C_1$-$C_6$-alkyl;

$R^6$ is selected from the group comprising or consisting of H, a substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_6$-aliphatic alkyl - e.g. a $C_1$-$C_6$-alkylamino aryl, a $C_1$-$C_6$-alkylamino heteroaryl, a substituted or unsubstituted cyclic $C_4$-$C_8$-alkyl containing optionally 1-3 heteroatoms and being optionally fused with an unsubstituted or substituted aryl or heteroaryl; or $R^6$ is an unsubstituted or substituted aryl or heteroaryl;

said aryl or heteroaryl groups are optionally substituted by substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_6$-alkyl, like trihalomethyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_6$-alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted $C_2$-$C_6$-alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_2$-$C_6$-alkynyl, amino, acylamino, aminocarbonyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_6$-alkoxycarbonyl, aryl, carboxyl, cyano, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, sulfoxy, $C_1$-$C_6$- thio alkoxy; or

$R^5$ and $R^6$ taken together could form an unsubstituted or substituted 4-8-membered saturated cyclic alkyl or heteroalkyl group, e.g. an unsubstituted or substituted piperidino group.

7. (Amended) A sulfonyl amino acid derivative according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein

$R^5$ is H; and $R^6$ is a $C_1$-$C_6$-alkyl which is substituted by an aryl, an heteroaryl group or an aminoaryl, aminoheteroaryl, aryloxy, heteroaryloxy, whereby said aryl and heteroaryl groups are optionally substituted by substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_6$-alkyl, like trihalomethyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_6$-alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted $C_2$-$C_6$-alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_2$-$C_6$-alkynyl, amino, acylamino, aminocarbonyl, substituted or unsubstituted $C_1$-$C_6$-alkoxycarbonyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, carboxyl, cyano, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, sulfoxy, $C_1$-$C_6$-thioalkoxy.

9. (Amended) A sulfonyl amino acid derivative according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1 which is selected from the following group :

4-chloro-N-({5-[({2-[(2-{[3-chloro-5-(trifluoromethyl)pyridin-2-yl]amino}ethyl)-amino]-2-oxoethyl}amino)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl}methyl)benzamide

4-chloro-N-[(5-{[(2-{[2-({5-nitropyridin-2-yl}amino)ethyl]amino}-2-oxoethyl)-amino]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide

4-chloro-N-({5-[({2-oxo-2-[(2-{[3-(trifluoromethyl)pyridin-2-yl]amino}ethyl)-amino]ethyl}amino)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl}methyl)benzamide

4-chloro-N-({5-[({2-oxo-2-[(2-{[5-(trifluoromethyl)pyridin-2-yl]amino}ethyl)-amino]ethyl}amino)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl}methyl)benzamide

N-({5-[({2-[4-(1H-1,2,3-benzotriazol-1-yl)piperidin-1-yl]-2-oxoethyl}amino)-sulfonyl]thien-2-yl}methyl)-4-chlorobenzamide

4-chloro-N-[(5-{[(2-oxo-2-{3-[(trifluoromethyl)sulfonyl]anilino}ethyl)amino]-sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide.

12. (Amended) Use according to claim 10 [or 11] for the treatment or prevention of disorders associated with abnormal expression or activity of JNK2 and/or 3.

13. (Amended) Use of a sulfonyl amino acid derivative according to formula I in particular [according to any of claims 10 to 12] claim 10 for the treatment of neuronal disorders including epilepsy; Alzheimer's disease, Huntington's disease, Parkinson's disease; retinal diseases, spinal cord injury, head trauma.

14. (Amended) Use of a sulfonyl amino acid derivative according to formula I in particular according to [any of claims 10 to 12] claim 10 for the treatment of autoimmune diseases including Multiple Sclerosis, inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), rheumatoid arthritis, asthma, septic shock, transplant rejection.

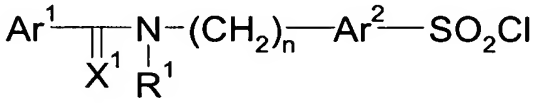
15. (Amended) Use of a sulfonyl amino acid derivative according to formula I in particular according to [any of claims 10 to 12] claim 10 for the treatment of cancer including breast-, colorectal-, pancreatic cancer.

16. (Amended) Use of a sulfonyl amino acid derivative according to formula I in particular according to [any of claims 10 to 12] claim 10 for the treatment of cardiovascular diseases including stroke, arteriosclerosis, myocordial infarction, myocordial reperfusion injury.

17. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition containing at least one sulfonyl amino acid derivative according to [any of the claims 1 to 9] claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient thereof.

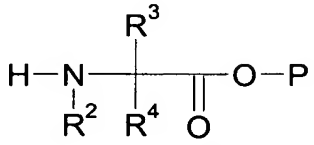
18. (Amended) Process for the preparation of a sulfonyl amino acid derivative according to [any of the claims 1 to 9] claim 1 comprising or consisting of the steps of:

e) preparing a sulfonyl compound V,



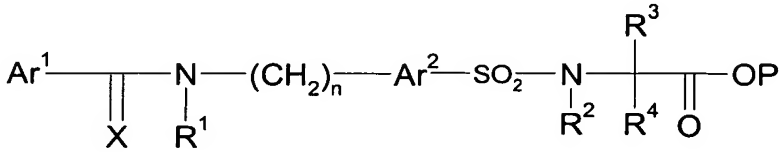
V

f) reacting it with the protected amino acid compound VIII



**VIII**

thus leading to a compound



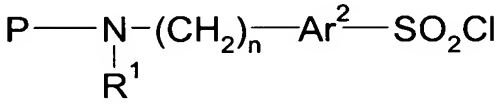
**IX**

g) said compound IX is subjected to a deprotection and finally

h) a coupling.

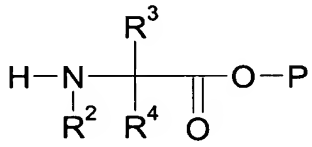
19. (Amended) Process for the preparation of the sulfonyl amino acid derivatives according to [any of the claims 1 to 9] claim 1 comprising or consisting of the steps of:

a) preparing a protected sulfonyl compound VII



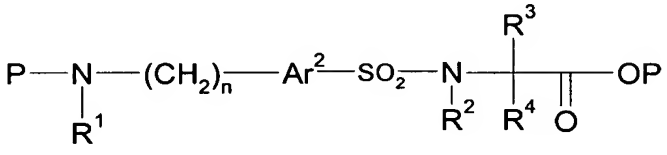
VII

b) reacting it with the protected amino acid compound VIII



**VIII**

thus leading to a compound



**X**

e) followed by deprotection;

f) coupling;

g) deprotection, and

h) acylation.--

Claims 20-28 (New).